

New Hampshire Special Education Program Approval Evaluation

**Wolfeboro Area Children's Center
Irene Dwyer, Director of Education**

Final Report

February 10, 1999

Evaluation Conducted on January 27, 1999

Team Members:

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New Hampshire Special Education Program Approval Evaluation Report

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(Commendations, Citations, and Suggestions for each program)

Note: *It should be noted that suggestions are not considered corrective actions and therefore are given as technical assistance. The private facility is not mandated to implement them.*

New Hampshire Special Education Program Approval Summary Evaluation Report

Wolfeboro Area Children's Center

I. INTRODUCTION:

A New Hampshire Special Education Program Approval visit was conducted at Wolfeboro Area Children's Center. The Program Approval team met on January 27, 1999 in order to review the status of Special Education services being provided to eligible students.

Activities related to this evaluation included the close review of all the application materials which were submitted by the school and a check of teaching certifications of special education personnel. In addition, interviews were held with the principal, special education teachers, parents and related service personnel as availability permitted. The team also randomly inspected and reviewed student files from the school, including the file of a student who falls under the James O' Consent Decree. Throughout the visit the team had full cooperation from the school personnel, which was greatly appreciated.

The report which you are about to read represents the consensus of all the members of the visiting team. Please keep in mind that this is a "report for exception", meaning that only exceptions to the NH State Standards have been addressed. If a component is not mentioned, that does not mean that the team did not review it; it just means that there were no exceptions to the Standards found in that particular area.

II. STATUS OF PREVIOUS PROGRAM APPROVAL: *Conducted in 1992*

Upon review of the 1992 Program Approval Evaluation Report, as well as application materials that were submitted for this visit, it was the consensus of the visiting team that much effort has been put forth by all the staff at The Wolfeboro Area Children's Center to resolve any issues of noncompliance noted during the 1992 visit. Of special note is the fact that the staff and administration of the Wolfeboro Area Children's Center have not only taken corrective actions to address the previous citations, they have also followed through with many of the program improvement suggestions.

Overall, the Wolfeboro Area Children's Center has made significant progress in addressing issues of noncompliance and they are commended for their efforts. It was the consensus of the visiting team that all issues have been resolved and they would like to recognize and reinforce the effort and hard work put forth to ensure the quality and degree of compliance found in each of student records that was reviewed.

III. ISSUES OF SIGNIFICANCE:

The Wolfeboro Area Children's Center provides a supportive, enthusiastic atmosphere for the provision of early childhood education in the least restrictive environment. This enthusiasm and support is fostered

throughout the facility by the staff, administration, related service personnel, secretarial personnel, as well as the parents and volunteers from within the community. In many ways it is clear that parents and staff work together to offer child centered programming that is developmentally appropriate to meet the needs of preschool children. Students with disabilities are involved in all aspects of programming at the Wolfeboro Area Children's Center and the staff is committed to providing quality services to all children regardless of their ability or developmental levels. In visiting the classrooms at The Wolfeboro Area Children's Center, it was evident that all youngsters are active participants in their own learning and that the individual needs of all the children are met. For this reason it should be noted that the visiting team did not identify any major issues of significance or pervasive problems that are negatively impacting services for the preschoolers enrolled in the programs.

The visiting team identified many praiseworthy things that are happening at the Wolfeboro Area Children's Center and overall they were very impressed with the wide array of quality programming made available to all children within Wolfeboro and surrounding communities. Age appropriate programming is made available to all children and special education services are provided in the true spirit of the law. Staff were consistently described as skilled and dedicated individuals who provide a warm, nurturing and motivating learning environment for preschool children.

In summary, it was the consensus of the visiting team that the Wolfeboro Area Children's Center has a clear vision and philosophy of where they are going with early childhood education and they are commended for the quality of programming offered. The visiting team was equally impressed with the degree of compliance found within student records as related to the NH Standards for the Education of Students with Disabilities. For this reason the team would like to recognize the Wolfeboro Area Children's Center for their vision, goals, and strong community support and for the provision of quality programming and resources for all preschool children. Any citations that appear in the report that follows are due mainly to minor oversights in the documentation of the special education process and are not reflective of any specific chronic problems in programming or procedures implemented at the Wolfeboro Area Children's Center.

COMMENDATIONS, CITATIONS AND SUGGESTIONS: All Programs

COMENDATIONS:

- The Wolfeboro Area Children's Center is commended for the provision of necessary resources, equipment and technology to meet the needs of all preschoolers enrolled.
- There is a nurturing, child-centered atmosphere in all programs where teamwork is encouraged among all staff.
- The staff of the Wolfeboro Area Children's Center were consistently described as knowledgeable, caring and enthusiastic about the teaching/learning process.
- Parents and the community are actively involved in the Wolfeboro Area Children's Center and show support for the programs and for all the children.

- Special needs students enrolled at the Wolfeboro Area Children's Center are involved in all aspects of the program.
- Professional development opportunities are available for all staff and are strongly supported by administration.
- Student records are well organized, comprehensive and contain all information as required by the New Hampshire Department of Education.
- The Wolfeboro Area Children's Center is commended for their involvement in the A.D.A.P.T. Program.
- The Special Gifts Grant recently awarded to the Wolfeboro Area Children's Center by the New Hampshire Department of Education will be utilized for local physicians to consult with evaluation teams when evaluating preschoolers.

CITATIONS: (in numerical order)

Ed # 1107.06 2 files: lacked evidence of written evaluation summary report from the LEA.

Ed # 33.06(d)(2) 2 files: progress reports did not reflect record of attendance.

SUGGESTIONS:

The visiting team once again makes the strong suggestion that related service personnel, special educators and the preschool teacher have regularly scheduled planning/consultation time to discuss students with IEP's.

It is suggested that the Wolfeboro Area Children's Center work the LEA's to ensure that IEP's have transition plans. It appears that much planning/preparation is done to transition preschoolers to the public schools, yet IEP's do not reflect this.

The Wolfeboro Area Children's Center needs to update program descriptions and policies to accurately reflect the existing services and to also ensure that language used reflects new IDEA regulations.

ADDENDUM

JAMES O. MONITORING PROGRAM

Wolfeboro Area Children's Center

Student File Review

Case Study Document

Reimbursement Claim Form

Case Study Addendum Form

<p style="text-align: center;">ADDENDUM JAMES O. MONITORING PROGRAM</p>

Wolfeboro Area Children's Center

No students attending who fall under James O' Consent Decree